FCHS HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH RESEARCH PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

*During Black History Month, every student will engage in research related to an individual or significant event in African-American history. We will be meeting in the school library to conduct research into your topics; the requirements for your assignment are below*.

1. Each student will complete a biographical ***research paper*** – or a ***research paper*** into a major event in African-American history – in which all of the following questions are answered and all of the requirements below are satisfied.

A. At least ***three (3)*** sources are used to conduct research, at least one of which is a ***print source***. A works cited page must be included with your papers. ***Any paper that does not contain a works cited page will receive a failing grade. Any paper which contains plagiarism will be scored as a zero.***

B. ***A complete*** ***biography*** of the individual being researched, ***or a complete account of the incident*** in African –American history, must be provided.

C. The ***three (3) most influential figures*** in the person’s life – or the ***three (3) most important figures contributing to the outcome of the event***, must be explained in the research paper. For example, if I were writing a paper on the South African leader Nelson Mandela, I might choose to discuss the contributions of Desmond Tutu to his life, his wife, Winnie Mandela, and his adversarial relationship with the apartheid leader, F.W. de Clerk. If were doing research into an incident like the Spanish-American War, I might choose to discuss the contributions of President William McKinley, future President and Roughrider Theodore Roosevelt, and Dr. William Gorgas, who helped to wipe out malaria and yellow fever in Cuba during and after the war.

D. In your paper, you must identify at least two ***contemporary issues*** facing the United States of America today you believe ***the person would be most concerned with*** and ***what solutions they might advocate for***. Or, alternately, if you are researching an incident or event in African-American History, you must identify ***the present-day issues or issues which are most similar to the historical event in question***, and explain how the two are related. For example, if you were doing a research paper on the Medicaid and Medicare bills of the 1960s, you might decide to compare the two programs to the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare.

2. Every student will also be required to complete a 2 -3 minute presentation in which you explain your topic and take any questions from the class which the presentation may generate. You may or may not decide to present your research paper formally – that is – to read it. A PowerPoint synopsis of the paper would also be appropriate, or, if you are inclined to do so, you can create your own audio-visual presentation on the topic, not to exceed five minutes in length. Visual aids will enhance the learning experience for your classmates.

Your presentations will be delivered between ***February 17th and February 27th***, and will be conducted during the first 15 to 30 minutes of class. Each student will receive a date and the schedule will be published. Any student who is absent on the date of their presentation will have to reschedule their report, and you may be required to present your work to another class.

3. All of the information reviewed in class will appear on a test at the end of African-American History Month. Both your individual research and the material presented in class by yours truly will be testable material.